



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chippewa National Forest  
Blackduck Ranger District

417 Forestry Drive  
Blackduck, MN 56630-4431  
218-835-4291

File Code: 1950-1

Date: September 17, 2010

Dear Neighbor,

The District Ranger of the Blackduck Ranger District, Chippewa National Forest proposes to do an environmental analysis called the Lady Slipper Interpretive Trail. The project would build ½ mile of interpretive trail leading from the new Lady Slipper Interpretive parking area just north of Pennington in Township 147N Range 30 W Section 33 on the Blackduck Ranger District. The trail will be located in Stand 9 on the attached color photo. The trail surface will be approximately 6 feet wide with a total clearing 8 feet and will be an ADA compliant hard gravel surface. Signs that interpret the plant communities along the trail will be installed. The purpose of the project is to provide a short trail associated with the new Lady Slipper Interpretive parking area that will allow visitors to see orchids in their native habitat, view other orchids or plants that commonly grow at the edges of cedar wetlands and in upland jack pine ecosystems.

This letter is to notify you of the proposal and is your initial opportunity to have input into the process.

**This proposal is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of our public involvement and government-to-government contacts, we plan to make contact and consult with the Division of Resource Management of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the appropriate Local Indian Council(s). If you know of others who are entitled to be consulting parties as described in 36 CFR 800.2, have recommendations for other contacts we should make, or have questions or comments regarding the project at this time, please contact Nancy Salminen. Our staff is assembling information pertaining to cultural resource sites and surveys in the project area. If you have any concerns regarding historic properties that may be affected by the project, please contact the "contact person" at the end of this letter. As soon as that information is assembled, we will forward it to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer along with a request for specific comment.**

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who commented, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not get further opportunities to comment on the project, because we only carry forward to the next part of the analysis the names of people or groups that participate.

It is possible that the proposed action described in the attachment to this letter will change due to new information gathered during the scoping process. Such changes could include minor changes in the width or length of the trail and type of trail surface.

## WHAT WE ASK



To be most useful, your comments should be received prior to October 13, 2010. To focus your comments, please consider the following questions:

Are there alternative ways to meet the purpose and need for the project other than the proposed action?  
Is there any information about the project area, which you believe is important in the context of the proposed activities, which the Forest Service may need to know?  
Are you or the group you represent particularly concerned about any of the potential effects of this proposal?

Please include the following information with your comments:

Name, address, telephone number, organization, and title (if applicable).  
Title of the document on which the comment is being submitted.  
Specific facts and supporting reasons regarding your comments.

A map of the area where the trail will be constructed is enclosed. The Scoping Letter and attachment are posted on our website at: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/projects/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/projects/).

When the analysis and documentation is complete, a formal opportunity to comment will be provided in accordance with 36 CFR 215 (see Comment and Standing to Appeal section below) to anyone who has shown any interest in the project. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Nancy Salminen at 219 835-4291. Send comments in reply to this scoping letter to one or more of the following:

District Ranger  
USDA Forest Service  
417 Forestry Drive  
Blackduck, MN 56630

Telephone - (218) 835-4291  
Fax - (218) 835-3132  
Electronically with copies to both names below:  
[gmorris@fs.fed.us](mailto:gmorris@fs.fed.us)  
[nsalminen@fs.fed.us](mailto:nsalminen@fs.fed.us)

## **COMMENTS AND STANDING TO APPEAL**

I am writing at this time to seek information that will help define the scope of actions, the alternatives, and the effects to be included in an environmental analysis of the proposal. This is NOT the notice of opportunity to comment defined in 36 CFR 215.5; and responses to this letter may not establish standing to appeal depending on recent court rulings. If you choose to provide information now, you will be informed of the 36 CFR 215 opportunity to comment, which I currently expect will occur in October 2010.

Sincerely,

GREG MORRIS  
District Ranger

Enclosure – Attachment





